

IN THE CLAIMS

Claim 1 (original): A staircase lift for transporting a disabled person between floors, including

- at least one guide rail extending substantially parallel to a stairway,
- a moveable carrier frame suspended from the guide rail means including carrier support means,
- drive means of a rack and pinion type drive for displacement of the carrier frame along the guide rail, in which the vertically disposed pinion engaging the rack is provided on the lower side of the guide rail,
- wherein the at least one guide rail is including internal support surfaces which are engaged by the carrier support means,
- the drive means comprising a first and second set of guiding means pivotally arranged one behind the other on each side of the pinion drive wheel in the frame, characterised in that the pivotally arranged first and second guiding means each include a movement control lever with a first end where at least one set of guiding members are mounted, a second end at which point the first and second movement control levers are joined to each other by a universal joint, said universal joint being substantially in the traction plane.

Claim 2 (original): A staircase lift according to claim 1, wherein the carrier support means include at least one carrier member arranged above the pinion drive wheel substantially in a traction plane and with an axis of rotation which is substantially perpendicular to the direction of travel, and wherein each of the first and second set of guiding means include an essentially vertically arranged carrier member and a top and bottom guiding member having a rotary axis substantially perpendicular to that of the carrier member.

Claim 3 (currently amended): A staircase lift according to claim 1 or 2, wherein the movement control levers are pivotally mounted to the carrier frame at an equal distance from the universal joint on each side thereof.

Claim 4 (currently amended): A staircase lift according to claim 1 ~~any of the claims 1 to 3~~, wherein the guide rail has a generally reverse U-shape comprising a lower rail opening beside the rack of the guide rail, and wherein the guide rail in its internal cavity is provided with at least one support surface essentially perpendicular to the traction plane for receiving the carrier members and a number of substantially vertical support surfaces for receiving engagement with the guide members.

Claim 5 (currently amended): A staircase lift according to claim 1 ~~any of the preceding claims~~, wherein the carrier member is slide shoe member.

Claim 6 (currently amended): A staircase lift according to claim 1 ~~any of the claims 1 to 4~~, wherein the carrier member is a roller.

Claim 7 (currently amended): A staircase lift according to claim 1 ~~any of the preceding claims~~, wherein the guiding members are slide shoe members.

Claim 8 (currently amended): A staircase lift according to claim 1 ~~any of the claims 1 to 6~~, wherein the guiding members are guide rollers.

Claim 9 (currently amended): A staircase lift according to claim 1 ~~any of the preceding claims~~, wherein the teeth of the pinion wheel are substantially circular in the cross-section and the rack of the guide rail displays a row of correspondingly shaped circular holes.

Claim 10 (currently amended): A staircase lift according to claim 1 ~~any of the preceding claims~~, wherein at least one section of the guide rail is curved in one or more planes.

Claim 11 (currently amended): A staircase lift according to claim 1 ~~any of the preceding claims~~, wherein the staircase lift further includes a supporting guide rail mounted parallelly to the first guide rail.

Claim 12 (currently amended): A staircase lift according to claim 1 ~~any of the preceding claims~~, wherein the carrier frame is provided with a platform adapted to accommodate a wheelchair.

Claim 13 (currently amended): A staircase lift according to claim 1 ~~any of the preceding claims~~, wherein the carrier frame is provided with a foldable seat.

Claim 14 (currently amended): A staircase lift according to claim 1 ~~any of the preceding claims~~, wherein the guide rail is provided with at least one power conductor rail and the carrier frame is provided with associated contact members for providing power to an electrical motor of the drive means.

Claim 15 (original): A staircase lift according to claim 13, wherein one or more further conductor rails and associated contact members are arranged for a lift control panel provided on the carrier frame.

Claim 16 (currently amended): A moveable carrier frame for use in a staircase lift according to claim 1 ~~any of the preceding claims~~.

Claim 17 (currently amended): A guide rail for use in a staircase lift according to claim 1 ~~any of the claims 1 to 15~~, said guide

rail including a generally reverse U-shape comprising a bottom rail opening beside a groove for receiving a rack for cooperating with a pinion drive wheel, and wherein the guide rail in its internal cavity is provided with at least one support surface essentially perpendicular to the traction plane for receiving one or more carrier members and a number of substantially vertical support surfaces for receiving engagement with a number of guide members.

Claim 18 (original): A guide rail according to claim 17, wherein the guide rail is provided with side mounting means.

Claim 19 (currently amended): A guide rail according to claim 17 or 18, wherein the guide rail is provided with an upper and a lower set of guide member support surfaces, each set having opposite surfaces.

Claim 20 (currently amended): A guide rail according to claim 17 or 18, wherein the guide rail is provided with an upper guide member support surface facing towards the side mounting means and a second lower guide member support surface facing away from the side mounting means, and wherein the lateral distance between the side mounting means and the carrier member support surface is smaller than the distance between the side mounting means and the lower guide member support surface which again is smaller than the distance between the side mounting means and the upper guide member support surface.

Claim 21 (currently amended): A guide rail according to claim 17 ~~any of the claims 17 to 20~~, wherein the guide rail is provided with at least one power conductor rail and the carrier frame is provided with associated electric contact members for providing power to driving a suspended carrier frame.

Claim 22 (original): A guide rail according to claim 21, wherein

one or more further conductor rails and associated contact members are arranged for a lift control panel provided on the carrier frame.

Claim 23 (currently amended): A guide rail according to claim 17 ~~any of the claims 17 to 22~~, wherein said guide rail is an aluminium profile.

Claim 24 (original): A guide rail according to claim 23, wherein the aluminium profile is provided with a surface treatment, such as a coloured surface, preferably by being anodised.